From: panjandrum@mac.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/18/02 10:14am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department of Justice,

It seems, that the issue of how to punish Microsoft for their behavior can be resolved with relatively simple measures. Here are some simple ideas that would probably work, either alone or in conjunction with each other.

1) Punish Microsoft in a financially meaningful way. I don't mean a slap on the wrist, I mean something that will hurt and hurt so badly that they will be simply unable to consider using the same tactics again. I expect this would run into the hundreds of millions of dollars, maybe even into the billions. Split this money equally between their 100 biggest competitors; Palm, Apple, RedHat, etc. This solution is so simple it seems silly to mention it, but it would work, and well.

2) Limit the markets they can operate in. Get them out of telecommunications, entertainment and "palmtop" devices.

3) Establish quotas for the total number of computers sold with Microsoft software. For example, establish a law dictating that all computer stores sell a minimum of 25% of computers (discounting "palmtops") running something other than Microsoft Windows. This could be Unix, Linux, Mac OS, or any number of other wonderful operating systems that just can't get off the ground due to Microsoft's monopoly. Be comes to mind as the prime example of a dramatically superior product failing because Microsoft holds an illegal and immoral monopoly on the market. (Image a small company building a car that was three times as efficient, twice as fast, four times as safe, twice as easy to drive, and cost half as much as any other car on the road. Now imagine that the company just can't sell them because of illegal market pressure from GM, Ford, etc. This is what happened to Be Inc.)

4) A *company* does not make decisions, people make decisions. Go after and punish the *people* at Microsoft who made these decisions. Throw Bill Gates in jail. Send a message to *all* companies that the persons responsible for making the decisions are *responsible* for the results of those decisions.

Truly, Microsoft's Orwellian tactics are frightening.

Sincerely,

David Butler
All-around-computer-guru ;-)